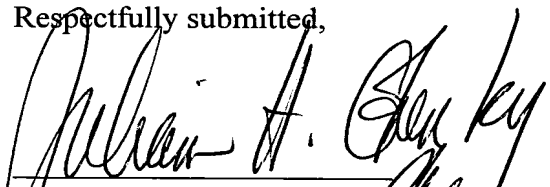
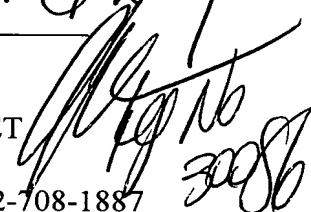


**REMARKS**

The Examiner has already allowed the application based on a previously filed amendment. Accordingly, the issue fee has been paid and the allowed claim is claim 23 as amended by the Examiner. Therefore, the Request for Continued Examination filed on August 20, 2003 and the preliminary amendment filed therewith is not applicable thereby rendering the notice of non-compliant amendment moot.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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